

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /076 W

----- 080231

R 091355Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3861

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF,US

SUBJECT: SADAT WILL "LISTEN" IN SALZBURG

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 8 WITH DUTCH NEWSMAN ACCOMPANYING
VISITING FONMIN VAN DER STOEL PRESIDENT SADAT MADE FOLLOWING
REMARKS IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS:

A) USG ROLE. USG HAS ALL THE CARDS. "I WILL GO TO LISTEN" TO
WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS TO SAY.

B) GENEVA CONFERENCE. I SUGGESTED OTHER COUNTRIES BE INVITED
BECAUSE I FEARED POLARIZATION WOULD SLACKEN PACE OF CONFERENCE'S
WORK. "GENEVA CONFERENCE IS LAST HOPE FOR PEACE IN ME." I CALL
ON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO CONVINCE ISRAEL THAT, WITHOUT
PALESTINIANS, DURABLE PEACE IS IMPOSSIBLE. ISRAEL'S UNWILLINGNESS
ACCEPT PLO AT CONFERENCE IS ONE OF MANY PROBLEMS.

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2. AHRAH'S CHAIRMAN IHSAN ABD AL-QADDUS KEYS HIS WEEKLY COLUMN MAY 9 TO SADAT'S COMMENT THAT HE IS GOING TO SALZBURG TO "LISTEN". QADDUS NOTES SECRETARY RECENTLY STATED IN CONNECTION WITH FORD/SADAT MEETING THAT USG HAS NO NEW PLAN. "UNDOUBTEDLY THIS IS A MERE DIPLOMATIC STATEMENT. PERHAPS BY THIS KISSINGER WANTED TO HIDE A SECRET..." SECRETARY ALWAYS DESCRIBES HIS ME TRIP AS EXPLORATORY, BUT PRACTICALLY FORD'S TRIP CANNOT BE EXPLORATORY SINCE MEETING IS A WORKING MEETING AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION EXPECTS FORD TO SPEAK MORE THAN LISTEN. FORD WOULD NOT MEET WITH SADAT UNLESS HE HAD COMPLETED COMPREHENSIVE STUDY RE DOMESTIC AMERICAN FACTORS AS WELL AS SOVIET, EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI AND ALL OTHER ELEMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE IMPACT ON ME ISSUE. NO FURTHER EXPLORATION WOULD BE REQUIRED.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IHSAN'S CONCLUSION THAT USG WILL USE FORD/SADAT MEETING (AS WELL AS FORD/RABIN MEETING) TO PRESENT RESULTS OF US REASSESSMENT IS WIDELY HELD IN CAIRO. WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT THAT REASSESSMENT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL AFTER FORD/RABIN MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED DIPLOMATIC COVER STORY. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL SAME ATTITUDE EXISTED PRIOR TO SECREARY'S LAST ME TRIP, WHEN MANY SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS PERSISTED IN THEIR BELIEF THAT SECRETARY HAD SECOND STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN HIS POCKET BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON.
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